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REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Students' Interview on Hostages

LD191147 Copenhagen AKTUELT in Danish 16 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Torben Andersen undated interview with unnamed Iranian students: "The United States Will Not Command Us...."]

[Text] The United States is ready to allow Congress to scrutinize U.S. policy on Iran during the reign of the shah, but the United States makes one condition: The 49 hostages in the occupied American Embassy in Tehran must be immediately released. This information was given by a U.S. State Department spokesman.

In reply a spokesman for the Iranian students told AKTUELT: "The United States must not give us commands. The hostages will only be freed when Khomeyni or Parliament orders it."

[Question] Your president, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, says that your action is an obstacle to Iranian foreign policy.

[Answer] That is possible, but we cannot concern ourselves with that. Our leader is Khomeyni and we follow his orders faithfully. In a statement he made Bani-Sadr complained that the UN commission was not allowed to talk to the hostages.

"Iran has wasted an opportunity," he said. "We cannot expect international sympathy while the hostages are held." He sees the holding of the hostages as a sign of weakness and not as a trump card for Iran.

On Friday the first round of the elections for the new Parliament was concluded. The Parliament will begin its work in mid-May and only then will the fate of the hostages be decided. On the first day of the election a coalition appeared, dominated by the Islamic Republican Party. At the same time the party was accused of election abuses.

The accusations comprised allegations that the coalition's supporters at the polls were "helping" illiterates to write the names of the coalition's candidates on the ballot papers. The coalition is closely connected with the Iranian clergy. On Friday the Home Affairs Ministry had to inform the supervisors at polling stations of the illegality of this practice.

Envoy on Hostages, USSR

LD191224 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 19 (KUNA)--The Iranian ambassador here Dr. 'Ali Shams Ardikahi ruled out the possibility of ending the American hostages crisis before next May when Parliament is elected and a new government is formed.

In an interview with AS-SIYASAH newspaper, the envoy said his government would not give priority to the hostages issue over other important local problems.

He added that President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr will visit a number of Arab countries next June and that some Arab leaders will be also visiting Tehran.

The ambassador, who returned here after a visit to Tehran, denied that his country intends to join the Arab steadfastness front which groups Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but he said Iran supports any political or military action by the front against Zionism and American 'imperialism' in the Middle East.

He stressed that Iran's support for the front's stand does not mean her involvement in the game of axis and Arab contradictions. He disclosed that Iran's spiritual leader affirmed during their meeting in Tehran last week the importance of the Arab role and solidarity in fighting enemies of Islam and freedom in the person of Zionist forces and American imperialism, and foiling their attempts to dominate the region.

Ambassador Ardikani also ruled out any possibility of deterioration in the Iranian-Soviet relations following Iran's refusal to give concessions to the Soviets regarding the gas deal. Talks held between the two sides in Tehran this week on the deal broke down.

The Soviets and others should know that Iran decides the price of its oil and gas away from political pressures and that any trade deal is subject to world demand and prices prevailing in the international market, the ambassador said.

On the European countries initiative to solve the Middle East crisis and their recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the ambassador said his country is interested in such initiative and believes that "France enjoys more freedom to adopt an independent decision than the U.S. which is under the influence of the Zionist lobby."

Qotbzadeh Rejection of Olympic Boycott

LD191958 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following the lunch ceremony to honor the Iranian football team who have achieved the great victory in the pre-Olympic championship in Singapore, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was interviewed by PARS NEWS AGENCY regarding Iran's participation in the Moscow Olympics. Sadeq Qotbzadeh was quoted as saying: I said my viewpoint the first time this issue was discussed. We had and are having the clear and solid objection to the Soviet intervention and presence in Afghanistan. If the idea of boycotting the Olympics was not initiated by the United States then we would not have been going to attend the Olympics; but because we do not wish to follow what the United States initiates therefore I am one of the supporters of the idea of Iran attending the Olympics. Qotbzadeh has further said: It will be up to the Revolution Council, however, to decide the matter. Nevertheless, we maintain ourprotest to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Qoddusi Statement on Amnesty

LD191247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued by the general prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution of Iran--read by announcer]

[Text] In His exalted name. Honorable brothers and sisters, following the decree of His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God increase his lofty shadow, regarding the general amnesty of accused and condemned persons, the central office of the Islamic revolution prosecutor general investigating the files as fast as possible, so that those included in the imam's amnesty can be released at the first opportunity. It is obvious that, to act swiftly and for the sake of the prisoners, those who are imprisoned for minor offenses should have priority; we will try to free about 100 of them by 21 March and the files of others will be investigated gradually.

[Signed] 'Ali Qoddusi, the Revolution prosecutor general of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commentary on Economy, U.S.

GF191254 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azerbaijani 1450 GMT 18 Mar 80 GF

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] We can clearly see that imperialism has either taken hold of Iranian scholars and inventors or destroyed and eliminated them. The traitorous shah's regime formulated our education system in such a way that our youth had no choice but to go to Western countries and bear the burden of loneliness and separation from their homeland. Thus, imperialism would identify those Iranians with talent and intelligence and would retain them after having trained them.

Anyway, this brain drain by the West and their exploitation by imperialism was another way of exploiting the Iranian nation. Now, how could a government and Parliament be Islamic and still allow imperialism to exploit the talent and intelligence of Iranian students by luring them abroad, especially at a time when Iran is in need of these people. To send Iranian students abroad freely and without any control would certainly result in their exploitation.

Imperialism could still destroy our agriculture through the Central Bank of Iran. It could still exploit Iranian consumers for the benefit of U.S. imperialists. The Central Bank can put Iranians to work in whatever field and area it so desires. The Central Bank is the banker's bank. Ordinary banks deal with people in their daily banking business, and the Central Bank deals with these banks. When imperialism wants Iranians to buy foreign-made automobiles and when the automobile market in the West is faced with stagnation, they provide loans to ordinary commercial banks through the Central Bank with a provision that these banks should make such funds available only to those persons who are willing to use them to purchase foreign cars.

We are saying that if the political hands of the traitorous shah and imperialism have been severed in Iran, the economic hands of imperialism still exist in Iran and our nation is still being exploited. The United States had its economic hands in Iran through the shah, and it was through this meddling that the masses were being looted and exploited. This meddling and interference consisted of a number of subservient educational institutions. Although Iran's Islamic Revolution has exposed imperialism's political meddling by expelling the shah, certain economic meddling continues. We must be alert and wary, because economic meddling is another form of imperialist political interference. As long as imperialist economic meddling in Iran has not stopped, there will always be further political and economic meddling and interference. We must therefore make every effort to expel and reject all imperialist economic meddling in our beloved homeland.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING MAJLES ELECTIONS

Composition of Investigative Group

LD191712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the central news bureau of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the cultural and press attache of the president has announced the names of the following persons chosen by the Revolution Council to form a council to investigate the elections for the National Consultative Assembly: Dr 'Ali Arab, Dr Asadi Lari, Shams-e Al-e Ahmad, Mr Hoseyn Khoshnevisan, Engineer Yusef Taheri Quazvini, Haj Sheykh Mostafa Maleki and Sajjadian.

The announcement requests these individuals to contact the office of the president, located in the premises of the prime minister's office at the start of business hours tomorrow.

Khomeyni New Year Address

NC201010 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 20 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 20 (AFP)--Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni called for unity and stressed the importance of the future Islamic Assembly, which he called "power of the people" in a broadcast today to mark the Iranian new year.

The success of the revolution was a victory for Allah and not for any group or individual, he said. The assembly, for which the first round of voting was held last Friday, is "an Islamic Parliament which should serve Iran... to have a central power on which all other powers will depend," he added.

The ayatollah called for an end to disputes, "the uproar, shouts and retribution" following the first round of voting and warned the Iranian people of the difficulties an "alert enemy" could create and also against those he said were "taking big profits from the region and from Iran."

"If candidates have lost elections, they should not criticise the people, who cannot be wrong. If there are complaints to be made they must be checked because to create a row will open the door to traitors," Ayatollah Khomeyni warned. "You who have not been elected serve outside Parliament," he added.

Criticism of the elections was anti-Islamic and could leave the way open for a return to power of supporters of the former imperial regime, he warned. Ayatollah Khomeyni also commented on the "calm which finally settled on the elections" while admitting that differences existed in every revolution.

"Our enemies if they wished could have bombarded Tehran and its avenues with their tanks and bombs. You had no way to defend yourselves, but the all powerful God made them afraid and gave us victory," he stressed. "Our victory is due to Islam and the way of the Koran," the ayatollah said.

In conclusion the revolutionary leader said he wanted everyone "hand in hand to rebuild the country" and those who were fortunate to aid the poor and less well favoured this new year which starts 19 minutes and 12 seconds before 1500 local time today.

The ayatollah, who is still under medical supervision following hospital treatment for heart illness earlier this year, added that he would give the people a written message on problems on which he wished to speak tomorrow.

EXPORT, IMPORT LAWS, FROZEN FUNDS DISCUSSED

New Laws

Tehran TIMES in English 1 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Tehran--The experts from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Mines and Iran Chamber of Commerce, are now busy in finalizing the import and export regulations of the country to be introduced from the next Iranian year to be started from March 21.

The final report will be announced on March 16 and and observers are expecting major changes in present import and export policy of the country.

Some believe that the import of luxury goods will be completely banned and there will be a balance, to a certain extent, in the volume of export and import during the next year.

Oil for goods policy is being thoroughly examined and the experts are having close contact with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in this matter.

Private sectors role in future trade is also being reviewed and it is believed that there will be certain restrictions on the role of the private sector. A senior government official, who preferred not to be named, told the Tehran TIMES that the private sector will not be allowed to have a hand in the import of raw materials to be used in certain industries of the country.

The Ministry of Industry and Mines is trying to provide raw materials to local industries such as textiles and carpet at a minimum cost. For this, the ministry believes the middleman should be eliminated from the network of raw material supplies. In this way, the ministry is of the opinion, that production cost will come down and finished products will be sold at cheaper rates.

Another aspect of the policy is said to give priority for the import and export business to the Third World countries. Some of the high government officials have suggested that even if Iran has to suffer up to a certain extent, communication and business must be primarily kept up with the Third World countries.

The Ministry of Commerce experts have been asked to study the market of the Third World countries and prepare a report for the guidelines of import and export policy for the next fiscal year. The Commerce Ministry also warned the concerned authorities that the import and export policy may be successful only in the case of strict vigilance on the country's border and smuggling being completely stopped.

The present flow of smuggling is hitting the country's national treasury hard and must be checked on, the ministry official said. In the case of smuggling continuing, the forthcoming export and import policy could be badly damaged, he maintained.

More on Revisions

Tehran TIMES in English 4 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Tehran--The minister of industries and mines, Mahmud Ahmadzadeh, announced yesterday that the government had prepared a revised policy for imports and exports which would be implemented from next Iranian year starting March 21.

Ahmadzadeh, who was speaking at an industrial seminar in Tabriz, said that the new regulations for imports and exports would be divided into two categories--technical and non-technical--in a bid to solve the problems confronted by the business community.

The seminar was organized by the managers of the 21 nationalized industrial units. It was attended by the industries and mines minister, the minister for labor and social affairs, the governor general of East Azarbayjan Province and other prominent government officials.

Addressing the industrial managers at the Tabriz chamber of commerce and industry, Ahmedzadeh said that the technical portion of imports and exports would be run by the Ministry of Industries and Mines, while the non-technical portion would be the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce. The minister assured the businessmen and the industrialists that the problems of raw materials would soon be solved under the new policy, to be announced shortly.

He said the industrialists would face no problems in importing raw materials from abroad after they are allowed to open letters of credit duly guaranteed by Bank Melli of Iran. Ahmedzadeh advised the Iranian industrialists to go abroad and explore all possiblities of importing required raw materials, and place orders personally to make the wheels of their industries move smoothly.

However, he added, all problems faced by Iranian industry could not be solved immediately and assured the industrialists that the government would do everything possible to remove all hurdles gradually. A series of problems concerning the efficient running of the nationalized industries were discussed at this seminar. The minister of industries and mines and the minister of labor and social affairs were asked to make necessary steps to remove these difficulties.

The problems included the question of minimum wages, bonus, customs facilities and clearance of imported goods, accomodation facilities for laborers and house rents, and the screening of industrial unit councils.

Ahmedzadeh, in his address, further said that due attention would be given to all these problems and necessary efforts would be made to provide greater facilities to industrialists and laborers.

He said that Bank Saderat (Export) of Iran would be split and converted into provincial banks in a bid to bring import and export facilities to the doorsteps of the business community in every province. The provincial banks, he added, would start functioning from the next Iranian year, starting March 21.

Call for Transfer of Funds

Tehran TIMES in English 5 Mar 80 p 2 WA

[Text] Tehran--The minister of post, telephones and telegraph yesterday called for the transfer of foreign exchange to an American company saying that any delay in the payment of dues would cause a blow to the PTT projects. The call was made by the PTT minister after the funds of the Telecommunications Company of Iran were frozen by the employees council of the Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry.

The funds were declared frozen on the pretext that the Telecommunications Company of Iran (TCI) had applied for the transfer of foreign exchange to the American Company.

It may be recalled that the PTT had requested the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) on February 19 to remit necessary foreign exchange to the Fortres Icas Continental company of the United States.

Informed sources said that the CBI employees were surprised at the attempt made by the PTT ministry to transfer foreign exchange and thus they approached the employees council of the Finance Ministry in a bid to get the funds frozen.

The PTT Minister in a statement justifying the move for transferring the funds to the United States called the action taken by the Finance Ministry employees "irresponsible" and added that it was not in the interest of Iran to stop the payment of dues to the American company responsible for certain PTT projects. The Minister described as false and baseless the reports that the Telecommunications Company of Iran wanted to transfer the funds in American dollars and added that such hasty and emotional acts could be harmful and disasterous for the PTT projects which if paralyzed would culminate in a financial loss to the Iranian nation.

The Telecommunications Company of Iran had been buying cables and other necessary materials from the American company for the last three years and the payment was always routed through the CBI. The CBI was also making the necessary reimbursements on the responsibility accepted by the Telecommunications Company of Iran, the minister said.

The wires and cables urgently needed by the TCI were already lying at the customs and could not be cleared if the payment was not made in due course of time, the minister said. The Minister further said that the Plan and Budget Organization had placed at "our disposal" a sum of rials 400 million for making the necessary payments to the American company.

He said it was total lie that the TCI or the PTT Ministry had asked for the transfer of foreign exchange in dollars. This was a deliberate attempt to prejudice the public against the PTT Ministry, the minister added.

DISORDER, UNREST REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Protest Against Guards' Expulsion

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Mar 80 p 16 WA

[Text] The Muslim associations of the 'Arafat and Tavakoli high schools have protested the expulsion of the Revolution Guards from Evin Prison and issued the following communique: We regard the expulsion of the Revolution Guards from Evin Prison as a violation of one of the principles of the constitution and consider this act an insult to these righteous sons of the revolution. We do not want this act to be covered up with easy excuses. Why was it not requested just to exchange these guards, and why were the Revolution Guards, who belong to a legal organ of the country, prevented from being reinstated. Yes, we have been witnesses to how all the requests to the Revolution Courts have been diverted from the Islamic line, which is laxness and compromise that violates the work of Ayatollah Khalkhali and his brave sons of Islam. This amounts to sabotaging the Revolution Courts and ignoring the pleas of the masses of the people. Again we demand all the responsible authorities to reinstate the Revolution Guards Corps at Evin Prison and return Ayatollah Khalkhali to the Revolution Courts.

Troops Sent Into Sanandaj

NC200751 Paris AFP in English 0742 GMT 20 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 20 (AFP)--The Iranian Government is replacing police with troops in the Kurdish city of Sanandaj and will evict armed groups there by force if necessary, deputy Interior Minister Mustafa Mir Salim told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

"We agree with political parties but not with armed groups and if necessary we will use force to ensure that there are no such groups in the towns of Kordestan," he said. "They (Kurdish groups) had agreed with the government that there should be no armed groups in Kurdish towns. If these groups do not wish to leave, the army will force them to," he added. "If they resist with force we will respond with force and if necessary we will draft in more troops to Sanandaj," he said.

Mr. Mir Salim confirmed reports that Kurdish members of the police force in Sanandaj, the provincial capital of Iranian Kordestan, had been transferred to other parts of Iran. He said that the army would henceforth be responsible for ensuring security in the town. He added that at present the measure only applied to Sanandaj but said that it would be applied to other towns where armed groups were present.

The Interior Ministry postponed voting in Sanandaj last Friday for the future Iranian Islamic Assembly because of the presence in the town of "irresponsible armed groups". The town responded with protest demonstrations, a 12-hour hunger strike and a petition, which Kurdish groups said carried more than 70,000 names.

People in four other Kurdish towns to the west--Marivan, Saqqez, Baneh, and Naghadeh--voted on Friday but the results of the poll have been declared void. The towns have so far been calm, as there has been some doubt whether this order would be maintained.

Observers here however said that the decision to use troops to enforce security in Sanandaj, a town where the headquarters of the main political parties are heavily guarded and where Kurdish nationalist groups have tended to maintain secueity up to now, could light a fuse that could spread rapidly through the already tense north western Kurdish provinces.

Bani-Sadr Meeting With Gilan Governor

LD191724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that this afternoon the governor general of Gilan met and conferred with Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of our country. At this meeting, he informed the president of the problems and difficulties in Gilan Province as well as the projects of this province.

Bani-Sadr Meeting With Khorasan Governor

LD191212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, governor general of Khorasan, Dr Ghafuri, met Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Islamic president of Iran, this morning. In this meeting, which took place in the prime minister's office, problems and difficulties of Khorasan Province were discussed and examined.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Interview With Afghan Nationalist

LD191804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1648 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In an interview with the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the spokesman of the Liberation Front of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan [Jebhe-ye Azadibakhsh-e Engelab-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan] today described the position of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan vis-a-vis the Red Army.

In response to a question on the effect of the Islamic Revolution of Iran on the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan the spokesman of the Liberation Front of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan said: Iran's Islamic Revolution has had a worthy effect on the entire region and on the Islamic countries. This effect has been extremely significant in Afghanistan, which shares the same culture and language with Iran. When the revolution reached its height in Iran and the slogan, God is greatest, was chanted in every alley and avenue, the Muslim and revolutionary Afghan people's morale grew in strength. They then intensified their struggle against the Marxist regime in Afghanistan.

In another part of his statement he said: The nation of Afghanistan considers its struggle against the USSR to be a long term one and believes that it should continue its struggle against the Soviet Red Army until it attains the same victory which the Muslim Iranian nation has won in its fight against the West. But should the Afghan nation achieve such a victory it would pursue another struggle; and that struggle would be against the West.

We now draw your attention to an interview between my colleague Andshaykh 'Abdolkarim Sadeqi, the spokesman of the Liberation Front of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan: [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Sadeqi, before anything else could you please tell us what is the aim of the struggling Muslims of Afghanistan in waging this struggle against the Afghan regime?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our aim and that of revolutionary Muslims in Afghanistan in this revolution, struggle and crusade which they are waging against the Marxist regime in Afghanistan is to overthrow the communist and Marxist regime in Afghanistan and to establish a government of Islamic justice which would be subservient to neither East nor West.

[Question] Can you tell us when you started this struggle and what successes you have achieved so far?

[Answer] The struggle by the genuine and progressive movements in Afghanistan began in 1965. Before that of course, they waged clandestine struggles. In 1975 this struggle became open. We believe that the Muslim nations, just as Imam Khomeyni has often said, should be subservient to neither the East nor the West. During the era of Daud and Zahir Shah the strugglers waged their fight since the realm of Afghanistan was under the domination of the Westerners. Now that the realm is under the hegemony of the Easterners, that is, the Russians, and now that Afghanistan has been subjected to military occupation, we are continuing our struggle against the present regime.

[Question] Is any help being given to the strugglers in Afghanistan at present, that is, to the Muslim strugglers?

[Answer] Of course, the Muslim strugglers, these ten groups which have set up a front, have not received any help from anywhere so far and are standing on their own feet. But the brothers who are in Pakistan may be receiving help from the Pakistani Government and from elsewhere, but we do not have full information on this.

[Question] Can you please tell us what effect the Islamic Revolution of Iran has had on the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan on the whole?

[Answer] Of course, I believe that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has had a worthy effect on the entire region, that is, on the Islamic countries, particularly on Afghanistan. This is because Afghanistan shares the same culture and language with Iran. When the revolution emerged in Iran under the slogan of God is greatest, which was chanted in the avenues and alleyways, the morale of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Afghanistan was strengthened. The Afghan people then stood up against the Marxist regime in Afghanistan and the Afghan people are still waging an intense struggle against this regime.

[Question] You have referred to the coalition of 10 groups in general terms. Could you please tell us how and when this coalition came about and give us more tails about the coalition?

[Answer] Some of these 10 groups during the monarchical regime and during the Daud regime carried out activities and struggles against the subservient regimes, particularly in the cultural and political dimension. Later, when the Marxist regime was set up in Afghanistan, they began an armed battle against the Marxists. But when the USSR suffered a political and ideological fiasco in Afghanistan it was compelled to land military forces in Afghanistan in order to utilize its might to force the meek and Muslim people and nation of Afghanistan to work for it. Fortunately, when the USSR landed its military forces in Afghanistan the struggling and Msulim people and nation of Afghanistan began their struggle in a more efficient and intense form. Their struggle against the USSR closed their ranks even further. When the Soviet military forces landed in Afghanistan these 10 groups were forced to set up a coalition in order to repel the enemy from their soil and in order to ultimately establish an Islamic republic. This coalition front is a step toward unity and toward understanding. In 1-3 months, by the might of God, this group will travel the path of unity.

[Question] Can you tell us in broad terms what you foresee for this struggle; how it has progressed on the whole so far; and whether you think that the victory, God willing, is near for the struggling Muslims in Afghanistan?

[Answer] It is obvious that struggle anywhere in the world is planned either on a short term or a long term basis. In Afghanistan we have planned the struggle on a long term basis. Our struggle is long, but no matter how often the USSR comes along with its modern armaments, in view of the fact that the Muslim nation of Afghanistan is leaning on its faith and on the God of the universe, our nation has waged and will continue to wage a struggle against the USSR. We will be armed with extremely high morale and imbued with faith until the Soviet Red Army is driven from our soil, just as the Muslim and heroic nation of Iran over many long years--and recently, when the revolution was appraoching its victory, that is, on the threshold of victory--carried out its struggle against the Western superpower and expelled the agents of the West and continues to do so against both the East and West. In Afghanistan, once the East, that is, the agents of the East, have been driven away from the country, our struggle will continue, since it is possible that foreign groups will continue to be active, that is, the United States or China, or those who are subservient to these people.

However, the struggling Muslims, the nation on the whole and the movements will wage a struggle as long as the East and West continue to interfere in Afghanistan.

[Question] What is your message, as a struggling Muslim from Afghanistan, to the Iranian nation?

[Answer] My humble message for my struggling brothers and the heroic nation of Iran is that they should help the genuine, progressive and Islamic Afghan movements and their own brothers. They should render material and moral aid since Afghanistan is in desperate need of help from the world's Muslims; help from the nations, the people and masses and our Muslim brothers, particularly from our Muslim brothers in Iran who have gained revolutionary experience and who know what problems are being faced by the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. [end recording]

Soviet Deaths in Eritrea

JN191827 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] In today's issue, ATH-THAWRAH magazine, organ of the Eritrean Liberation Front, said that two Soviet generals were killed in recent clashes between the Eritrean revolutionaries and the Ethiopian army. The magazine added that the two generals' corpses were transported to Moscow from Asmara airport by a military plane.

The magazine also published statistics on the number of foreign forces fighting on the side of the Ethiopian army in Eritrea. It said: 17,000 Cubans, 2,000 Soviet experts, 3,000 GDR nationals and 3,000 PDRY soldiers, including more than 100 pilots flying Soviet-made MiGs, are among the foreign forces stationed in Eritrea to support the Ethiopian regime.

In conclusion, the magazine said that Soviet military aid to Ethiopia has amounted to $1.5 billion.

Ambassador on Iraqi Relations

LD181344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following Iran's decision regarding the downgrading of its diplomatic relation with Iraq to the level of charge d'affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Do'ai, Iran's ambassador to Iraq, was summoned to Tehran. In a PARS interview last night, Hojjat ol-Eslam Do'ai stated: The Ba'th regime of Iraq, even after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, tried to prevent this victory by cooperating with the regime of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Iran's ambassador to Iraq, speaking about his meeting with the imam this morning, said: At the meeting I submitted my report and discussed affairs connected with Iranian-Iraqi relations with his eminence.

About his visits to Iran during the period of his assignment he said: After my last trip I came to the conclusion that a decisive stand should be taken against the unfriendly attitudes of the Government of Iraq. I even put forward the proposal to completely cut relations with Iraq. But, finally, it was decided that Iraqi officials should be given a last chance to review their position. I returned to Iraq, but unfortunately, they did not change their attitude but added to the severity of their action.

The Iranian ambassador to Iraq, speaking of the revelations about Iraqi interference in the south of Iran, said: In the days preceding the revolution Sa'dun Shaker, the head of the Iraqi security organization, provided the Iranian security attache, (Labbaf), with wrong information and told him that the bodies of his friends were lying in the streets of Tehran and asked him to cooperate with the Iraqi regime. Here I have to express my admiration for the patriotic sentiments of that security official, not to mention his record and performance. Under the pressure exerted on him by the Iraqi regime and under very difficult circumstances he fled from Iraq and returned to Iran. I have to admire his patriotism in believing that foreign spies should be confronted. Anyway, this shows that the Ba'th people intended to conspire against the revolution of Iran by using people like him.

Just before the revolution the Ba'th regime even tried to damage our Islamic revolution by pressuring Iran's weak points, which were left alone at the time of the deposed shah. In the time of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iraqi officials imprisoned a group who had formed a front in a village in Khuzestan and when some of them fled to Libya it asked the Libyan Government to hand them over to Iraq, claiming that some of them were Iraqi policemen. But now, after the victory of the revolution, Iraq has armed and mobilized the same group and has infiltrated them on to Iranian soil in order to create confusion.

The PARS correspondent asked: Is the only reason for the worsening of relations between Iran and Iraq the actions of the Ba'th regime, or has the position of some of the unofficial [word indistinct] in Iran provided a pretext for various reactions by Iraq?

The Iranian ambassador to Iraq answered: This issue depends entirely on the sincerity and views of the Iraqi regime. At present, we have friendly relations with Syria although some people in Iran defend the Muslim brotherhood.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Do'ai added: This could have been used as a motive for a Syrian stand against Iran. But Syria understands Iran's problems. Speaking about the sabotage activities of the Iraqi regime against Iran, he said: This kind of action, with the grace of God, has so far been countered by the cooperation of the army and the Guard Corps.

In another part of his interview he said: Iraq's main fear is Iran's Kordestan problems and it is trying to keep this region disturbed. But now that there is enough freedom in Iran to allow the representative of the democratic party to be elected to the Majles, Iraq does not know how to confront this issue. Of course, Iraq too has granted autonomy to the Kurds but the fact is that only the Ba'th Kurds are free. Hojjat ol-Islam Do'ai, in another part of the interview, added: Iran's policy in giving assistance to liberation movements has frightened the Iraqi regime and this has prompted the Iraqi regime to conspire against the revolution and Iranian leaders.

Answering the PARS correspondent, who asked him whether Iraq is providing facilities in order to strengthen the American military forces in the region, he said: If you remember, America intended to build Mohammad Reza Pahlavi into a false cornerstone, a personality, and it is doing the same thing to Saddam Husayn. It forces the proud and dignified King Hassan to go to Iraq and send King Husayn to Baghdad and makes other puppet sheykhs and leaders welcome Saddam Husayn's plans as the utterences of a brilliant mind.

At present Iraq does not have diplomatic relations with America, but the bureau for American interests in Iraq is more active than an embassy. U.S. military and security experts and CIA agents are active there. It was even known that America agreed to hand over the lackeys of the former regime in Iran to Iraq so that Iraq could use their information and expertise. Just as America, with the assistance of Israel, created Sa'd Haddad in southern Lebanon as an agent for creating weakness and confusion in the region, now with the help of Iraq, by giving an opportunity to people like Palizban, supporters of Bakhtiar and others, it intends to create other Sa'd Haddads in the border region of Iran.

At the end of the interview Hojjat ol-Eslam Do'ai added: One month ago Iraq passed a law according to which all foreigners had to leave the country within 6 months or accept Iraqi citizenship. The Iranians who do not want to accept Arabic citizenship are now suffering hardship and most of them will probably return to Iran within the next 5 months. They will undoubtedly be accepted with open arms.

Qotbzadeh Meeting With PLO 'Theoretician'

LD191736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, this morning Mr Munir Shafiq, theoretician of the PLO, met and conferred with Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, foreign minister of our country. At this meeting, which lasted for 1 and 1/2 hours, the situation in the region was discussed.

Bani-Sadr Visit to Arab States

JN191701 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kuwait, announced in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH that Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will visit several Arab states following the formation of a new cabinet.

The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait added that leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni and president Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr believe in the need to preserve liberty and Islam in the region.

Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr expressed the belief that it is necessary to make contacts with the region's states. However, he ruled out the possibility of visiting the Arab states in the near future.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN DISCUSSES HOSTAGES, OIL, ARMY

Commission's Jurisdiction Over Hostages

GF161412 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 15 Mar 80 GF

[Unattributed commentary: "Aggressive U.S. Plots Have Reached a Dangerous Phase"]

[Text] Dear compatriots, the special international commission left our country after having familiarized itself with some small examples of the crimes committed by the former shah and the interference of the U.S. Government in our country's affairs. In the words of the Algerian member of this commission, their findings were only a few drops in the ocean. At the time of their departure from our country, the commission members announced their readiness to continue studying and investigating the documents and evidence pertinent to the crimes of the Pahlavi regime and the United States.

As you know, the United States, with the help of certain conciliatory officials in our country, tried to divert the commission in a direction that had no connection whatsoever with its function and mission. However, as a result of our people's alertness and the decisive role played by student followers of the imam's policy, as well as the revolutionary and anti-imperialist position of the nation's imam, this scheme was a total failure.

U.S. imperialist circles, who had apparently been silent for some time, have once again started making noise and are studying various ways and means of bringing further pressure to bear on Iran. Once again, U.S. imperialism is showing its fangs and claws to our unfettered nation. The latest statements by Carter, who said: "We have vast economic, political and military means to put pressure on Iran," is an indication that the hypocritical stage of U.S. imperialism is [word indistinct] and the people of our fatherland must be alert to all counterrevolutionary plots and conspiracies of the U.S. Government. They should be prepared more than ever to counteract these plots.

The Iranian nation is demanding its legal and legitimate rights. Our nation wants the United States to stop hindering its efforts to return the traitorous shah and his plundered property. The Iranian nation wants the U.S. imperialists to confess to their improper meddling and interference in Iranian affairs that occurred throughout the reign of [the shah's] satanic regime and to apoligize for the fact that they criminally conspired with the satanic regime in creating misery for the people of our country. The United States should promise and guarantee that it will not interfere in our country's internal affairs in the future. These are our nation's minimum demands from a meddling and plundering government such as the United States. But the U.S. officials do not even wish to surrender to these demands.

In the course of the work by the special international commission in our country, the whole world once again witnessed the deadly results of the colonial policy of U.S. imperialism. The entire world noted how the U.S. officials, who are used to imposing their wishes upon others, were trying to impose their views on the special commission as well. Even the most simple-minded person knows that the special international commission had been appointed by the United Nations to investigate the crimes and despicable acts of the deposed shah's regime and the meddling of U.S. imperialism in Iran. It was not appointed by the U.S. Government. The question of the U.S. hostages and their release had no connection whatsoever with the commission's duties. Now that the schemes of the U.S. imperialists and all proponents of conciliation vis-a-vis those schemes have been frustrated and offset, the U.S. Government and its loud mouthpieces are once again talking about the need to use pressure against Iran. The Democratic whip in the U.S. Senate, [name indistinct], has called for immediately severing relations with Iran, expelling all Iranians living in that country and an all-out economic sanction and blockade against Iran. Republican Senator S.I. Hayakawa has even gone a step further and has asked for the mass arrest of all Iranians living in the United States. Obviously, the anti-Iranian gestures of these U.S. officials does not end here. The United States is continuing its military actions against our country. Sending war fleets loaded with aircraft, other offensive weapons and U.S. military personnel into the vicinity of Iranian coastal waters is an indication that U.S. imperialism has not changed. It is still the archenemy of our nation and revolution and will always be one. These realities dictate to us that in spite of all hypocritical gestures made by U.S. imperialism, one must always be prepared and ready to confront that country's plots. It must be said that those who are proponents of conciliation and compromise with this imperialist government are very much wrong and at fault. Such policy slanders the imam's revolutionary policy.

The nation's imam has stated very clearly that we shall fight against the criminal United States as long as we live. The imam wants the people to destroy in the womb any and all types of plots by the No 1 enemy of the people of Iran and the Islamic Revolution. This enemy must not be permitted to block the revolutionary trend in its popular and national path.

The Iranian nation, following Imam Khomeyni's guidance, is determined to continue its fight and struggle against U.S. imperialism until victory has been achieved.

Oil Nationalization, Army Purges

TA192054 Editorial Report TA] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on March 19 broadcast two commentaries, the first, entitled "The Anniversary of the Nationalization of the Iran Oil" says: Thanks to the heroic struggle of the Iranian nation, 29 years ago the Pahlavi regime was forced to nationalize the oil. After his return to power, the treacherous shah denationalized the Iranian oil and put it at the disposal of U.S. and British imperialists. It was during these 25 years that the greatest damage was done to the political, economic, social and cultural like of the Iranian nation. Finally, under the leadership of the imam, the Iranian nation ended the reign of the corrupt Pahlavi dynasty and the imperialist oil policies of the United States in Iran. Today the direction of the Iranian oil affairs is in the hands of the nation. The anti-American struggle of the Iranian nation will continue until final victory.

The second, entitled "What Kind of an Army Does the Islamic Republic of Iran Need?," says: President Bani-Sadr has recently announced the need for the formation of a united Islamic army. Carrying out purges in the army is the duty of every Islamic official. One cannot leave untouched an army that was so true to the corrupt Pahlavi regime and carried out all sorts of murderous acts against the Iranian nation. It is a well known fact that some elements true to the former regime and its U.S. masters are plotting against the revolution and its gains. The recent events in Tabriz, in which some of these elements had a hand, should not be forgotten.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the Iranian nation needs an army that will stand by the nation and not against it. During the former regime the army was used to crush the freedom-seeking struggles of the nation. U.S. imperialism used this army to crush anti-imperialist rebellions in Iran, as well as in the Persian Gulf region.

Actually there are many men in the army who are true to the revolution and the imam. Their experience should be used in the formation of an army that will be a firm base for the revolution and a guarantee of independence and sovereignty.

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